



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Requires Removals within One Month Temporary Restraining Order Halts Storage of Hazardous Waste

Glendale - The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced that a Temporary Restraining Order against A-American at 3033 Mission Road in Alhambra, California and its affiliates American Recovery and Alhambra Holdings was issued by the Los Angeles Superior Court on September 20, 2001. Under the order, A-American must stop accepting hazardous waste and hire emergency response contractors to remove waste currently stored on the site.

On March 14, 2001 DTSC, through the Attorney General, filed a civil complaint alleging that the facility operators are operating the facility in an unsafe manner and that the principal facility operator does not hold the required DTSC permit.

"The Temporary Restraining Order sets up a schedule requiring the facility to remove all of the waste - beginning with the most hazardous materials," said DTSC Director Ed Lowry.

In March, because of increasing concerns about the conditions of the facility. DTSC conducted inspections at the facility every two weeks. In June 2001, the inspections revealed that the operators were illegally storing hazardous waste on the company's adjacent property.

On June 15, 2001, at DTSC's request, the court ordered the removal of all hazardous waste from the adjacent property and required the facility operators to keep the amount of hazardous waste at the main property under the legal limit.

During a DTSC enhanced surveillance inspection on September 13, 2001, inspectors determined that the facility had laid off most of its employees and was storing hazardous waste in an unsafe manner. According to DTSC inspectors, the company's accountant stated the facility was not accepting waste and did not have the financial resources to remove hazardous wastes that they stored at the facility. Based on these facts, DTSC concluded a court-ordered injunction was necessary.

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DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting its reduction.

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"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov."